

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) locking device (10), comprising:

an adjustable bracket (7) provided with a recess (16); ;

a stationary contour (9) with a contact surface (12); ;

a pin (8), ~~which is~~ arranged movably in said recess (16);

5 a compression spring generating and to which an axial spring force generated by means
~~of a compression spring (21) is applied to said pin, with said pin having~~ a pin head (14), which
projects from said recess (16) of said bracket (7) and has a contact pair with said contact
surface (12);, and

~~at least one said~~ a centering device (18) between said pin (8) and said bracket (7),

10 ~~characterized in that said, at least one~~ , said centering device (18) ~~has~~ having at least one said,
elastically deformable ring (19), which is arranged between said pin (8) and said bracket (7)
within said recess (16), is arranged displaceably within said recess (16), and has a surface (22)
with a cross section tapering against the direction of the force of said compression spring (21),
~~which~~ said surface of said centering device is in contact with a complementary surface (23) at
15 said pin (8).

2. (Currently Amended) A locking device (110), comprising:

an adjustable bracket (107) provided with a recess (116); ;

a stationary contour (109) with a contact surface (112) having at least one ~~said~~
depression (113),

5 a pin (108), which is arranged movably in said recess (116),;
a compression spring for generating ~~and to which~~ an axial spring force ~~generated by~~
~~means of a compression spring (121)~~ is applied to said pin, wherein said pin has a pin head
~~(114) projects projecting~~ from said recess (116) of said bracket (107) and said pin head forms
has a contact pair with said contact surface (112), and ;

10 ~~at least one said a~~ centering device (126) between said pin (108) and said bracket (107),
~~characterized in that said centering device (126) takes place by means of~~ comprising two said
elastically deformable rings (130, 131), ~~which are~~ arranged between said pin (108) and said
bracket (107) within said recess (116), and ~~have~~ having a surface (134, 135) each tapering in
the direction of the longitudinal axis of said recess (116), wherein said elastically deformable
15 rings (130, 131) are in contact with one another via tapering surfaces (134, 135).

3. (Currently Amended) A locking device in accordance with claim 1 ~~[[or 2]]~~,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~at least one~~ said, elastically deformable ring ~~or said elastically~~
~~deformable rings (19, 27, 130, 131)~~ has/have at least one said slot (20, 28, 132, 133), which
is/are arranged axially or obliquely to ~~said a~~ longitudinal axis (15, 115) of said pin (8, 108)
5 and/or said recess (16, 116) and completely or partially severs/~~sever~~ said ring (19, 27, 130,
131).

4. (Currently Amended) A locking device in accordance with ~~one of the above claims~~
claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said tapering surface (22, 29, 134, 135) of said elastically

deformable ring ~~or elastically deformable rings (19, 27, 130, 131)~~ has a conical shape.

5 5. (Currently Amended) A locking device in accordance with claim 2 ~~one of the claims 2 through 4~~, characterized in that wherein a first elastically deformable ring of said rings (130) is in contact by ~~[[its]]~~ a side facing away from said first ring (130) with said compression spring (121) and that a second elastically deformable ring of said rings (131) is supported by its flat front side with said bracket (107).

6. (Currently Amended) A locking device in accordance with claim 2 ~~one of the claims 2 through 5~~, characterized in that wherein one of said rings is a slotted ring and said compression spring (121) is in contact with said pin (108) on a side facing away from said slotted ring (130).

7. (Currently Amended) A locking device in accordance with claim 1 ~~[[or 2]]~~, characterized in that wherein said ring is a slotted ring and said compression spring (21, 121) is in contact with said bracket (7, 107) on the side facing away from said slotted ring.

8. (Currently Amended) A locking device in accordance with claim 1 ~~[[or 2]]~~, characterized in that wherein said locking device (10, 110) has another centering device to provide two ~~[[said]]~~ centering devices (18, 26) (118, 126), which are located at spaced locations from one another and are in functional connection with one another via ~~[[a]]~~ said

5 compression spring (21, 121).

9. (Currently Amended) A locking device in accordance with claim 8, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ a first centering device (18, 118) is arranged in the vicinity of said opening (17, 117) of said recess (16, 116) and a second centering device (26, 126) is arranged inside said recess (16, 116).

10. (Currently Amended) A locking device in accordance with claim 8 ~~one of the claims 8 through 9, characterized in that wherein~~ said first centering device (118) ~~takes place by means of an elastically deformable ring (119), which is arranged between said pin (108) and said bracket (107) within said recess (116), is arranged displaceably within said recess (116), a~~ surface (122) has a cross section tapering against said compression spring (121), which surface is in contact with a complementary surface (123) at said pin (108), and said second centering device (126) ~~takes place by means of~~ comprises two said elastically deformable rings (130, 131), which are arranged between said pin (108) and said bracket (107) within said recess (116), and have a surface (134, 135) tapering in the direction of the longitudinal axis of said recess (116), wherein said elastically deformable rings (130, 131) are in contact with one another via ~~their~~ said tapering surfaces (134, 135).

11. (New) A locking device in accordance with claim 2, wherein said, elastically deformable rings each have a slot arranged axially or obliquely to a longitudinal axis of said pin

and/or said recess and completely or partially sever said rings.

12. (New) A locking device in accordance with claim 2, wherein said tapering surfaces of said elastically deformable rings each have a conical shape.

13. (New) A locking device in accordance with claim 2, wherein one of said rings is a slotted ring and said compression spring is in contact with said bracket on the side facing away from said slotted ring.

14. (New) A locking device in accordance with claim 2, wherein said locking device has another centering device to provide two centering devices, which are located at spaced locations from one another and are in functional connection with one another via said compression spring.

15. (New) A locking device in accordance with claim 14, wherein a first centering device is arranged in the vicinity of said opening of said recess and a second centering device is arranged inside said recess.

16. (New) A locking device in accordance with claim 8, wherein said first centering device includes another elastically deformable rings, which is arranged between said pin and said bracket within said recess arranged displaceably within said recess, with said surface having a

cross section tapering against said compression spring, said surface being in contact with a
5 complementary surface at said pin, and said second centering device comprises two said
elastically deformable rings arranged between said pin and said bracket within said recess, and
have said surface tapering in the direction of the longitudinal axis of said recess, wherein said
elastically deformable rings are in contact with one another via said tapering surfaces.